- Movement of foodgrains from one place to another by safe means *i.e.* normally covered wagons etc.
- Loading of standardized bags as far as possible and leaving 18 inches space near the flap doors.
- Proper weighment and accounting at the time of receipt and issue.

Wastage of wheat in Punjab

1742. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Punjab is losing 18 lakh metric tonnes of wheat due to wastage every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of a total 150 lakh metric tonnes of wheat produced in Punjab, almost 100 lakh metric tonnes are stored in the open;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government intends to take to solve this perennial problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of wheat stored under Covered and Plinth (CAP) in Punjab as on 01.11.2009 are as under:

State agencies	—	76.52 lakh metric tonnes
FCI	—	4.55 lakh metric tonnes

(d) In 2008 the Government of India has formulated a Scheme for construction of godowns of godowns for FCI-Storage requirements through Private Entrepreneurs. Under the Scheme, High Level Committee of Food Corporation of India (FCI) has approved creation of storage capacity of 71.25 lakh metric tonnes at various locations in Punjab. The godowns are proposed to be constructed through private investment, for which FCI would be guaranteeing the storage charges for 5 years. The government has also allowed Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) to build godowns at locations approved by the FCI within the 71.25 lakh metric tonnes of storage capacity approved, on their own land and with their own funds. FCI would provide 4 years Guarantee for the storage space so created by CWC/SWCs.

The outward movement of foodgrains from Punjab has been increased so as to create more storing space in the State. The outward movement of wheat from April to October, 2009 was 48.69 lakh metric tonnes as compared to 31.00 lakh metric tonnes in the corresponding period last year.

Allotment of foodgrains to Madhya Pradesh under PDS

†1743. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrain allocation for BPL and APL families in Madhya Pradesh under public distribution system has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of quantum of wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene being supplied under public distribution system to Madhya Pradesh by Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) to (c) Government allocates foodgrains to States and UTs under TPDS based on allocation norms. For 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, foodgrains are allocated to all States and UTs, including 41.25 lakh BPL families in the State of Madhya Pradesh, at the scale of 35 kg per family per month.

For the above Poverty Line (APL) families, Government allocates foodgrains to States and UTs, including the State of Madhya Pradesh, based on availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and offtake levels in the past. The present allocations under this category range between 10 and 35 kg per family per month.

Details of allocations of wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene for the State of Madhya Pradesh for the last three years are as under:

(In thousand tons)

Commodity	BPL (including AAY)**			APL		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Wheat	1292.946**	1314.268*+	1473.098	339.106	99.900	349.373
Rice	439.530	418.208	259.378	702.840	25.560	3.834
Total	1732.476	1732.476	1732.476	1041.946	125.550	353.207

**including 16578 tons of coarse grains

*+including 51000 tons of coarse grains

(In thousand tons)

Levy sugar*	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09++
	115.98	155.53	161.13

* Sugar season is reckoned from October to September.

++ including special festival quota

(In thousand tons)

Kerosene	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	488.609	488.609	488.609

During 2009-10, the allocations of wheat and rice to Madhya Pradesh under TPDS (AAY, BPL and APL) have been increased from 20.85 lakh tons to 28.84 lakh tons.

Price hike of sugar

1744. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar price in open market climbed Rs. 46 per kg. and is expected to keep climbing the way things are;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is estimated that total expected production of sugar in 2009-10 is around 15 million tonnes according to National Sugar Federation of co-operative sugar factories and the expected demand is 23 million tonnes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) At present, the sugar prices are ruling in the range of Rs.34 to 39 per kilogram in the four metropolitan cities of the country. It is difficult to indicate if sugar prices would keep climbing as sugar price in the market depend upon a number of factors like demand, supply, market sentiments and international prices.

(c) and (d) The National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd. has estimated sugar production for the current sugar season 2009-10 to be around 16.0-16.05 million tonnes and the estimated domestic demand of sugar to be around 23 million tonnes. In order to augment availability of sugar in the country, the Government has taken a number of steps, the details of which are given in Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred. Question 1725 Parts (a) to (c).]

Implementation of Abhijit Sen Committee Report

1745. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is implementing the Abhijit Sen Committee Report fully;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the results yielded so far; and

(d) if not, by when the report will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) Abhijit Sen Committee's recommendations are taken into consideration, while devising various policies with regard to the Commodity Futures Market. An amendment to the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act 1952 (FCR Act) to strengthen